

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Provided behind the printing area 41 (Figs. 1, 2, and 3-and-4) are two optical sensors 60 and 61 suitable for switching upon the passage and positioning of a sheet 26. The sensor 60 is a direct type and is arranged behind the rollers 56. The sensor 61 is on the other hand controlled by an appendage 62 having one end with inclining edges arranged in front of the rollers 56, interfering lightly with the plane 38.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The transport device 34 (Figs. 2 and 7-and-8) includes the worm screw shaft 43, a guide screw mounted on the carriage 31 and a transport motor 74. The motor 74 is coupled with the shaft 43 through a pinion 76, a coding wheel 77 and a toothed belt 78. The positions of the carriage 31 are detected by a linear encoder comprising a transparent strip 81 with coding bars, readable by a sensor 82 mounted on the carriage 31.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 17 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The plate 131 supports, adjacent to the tab 132, a deflector 133, made of Mylar, inclined towards the plate 49 and with a front edge resting on the plate, slightly upstream of the sensor 60 (see Fig. 3 [[4]]). The deflector is arranged for guiding the exchange of sheets 26 between the tray 48 and the movement plane 38 in association with picking and between the plane 38 and the plate 131 in association with preparation for printing.